

The Integrator

The National Preparedness Division of FEMA Region 1

Letter from the Federal Preparedness Coordinator



These are truly exciting times for our staff and the extended national preparedness staff that includes several college interns. With origins at three different colleges and three different disciplines, they

represent our future in emergency management and homeland security. For those interested in the possibilities with college interns, I encourage you to visit our partner NEDRIX (Northeast Disaster Recovery Information eXchange – NEDRIX.com (under the Resources section)), a group of private sector concerns with presence in all six New England states. NEDRIX has created a special section of their website to broker college intern opportunities with the private sector. I hope to replicate this capability for the public sector within six months.

Speaking of partners and the next generations, FEMA Region 1 is working together with the SafeAmerica Foundation (see SAFEAmerica.org) with a focus on September's preparedness month. This year's drill focus will target younger populations and businesses with several "texting" drills. By way of example, consistent with your company's or organization's IT security policy, text the word SAFE to 78247. The foundation will then ask you for your e-mail address and then send you back a flyer with several

preparedness drill ideas. FEMA Region 1 will provide additional drill ideas and coordination for September's preparedness month activities as the summer progresses.

If you read further in this Integrator, you'll see our office has taken over a number of preparedness grants. The idea is that we can start to align state preparedness reports, NIMSCAST and other assessment information and better guide our state partners individually and as a region. You'll also see a discussion about us becoming more involved in coordination with the state fusion centers, reflecting a national emphasis to add "protection" issues and projects into the preparedness division.

Looking ahead, expect the FEMA Region to spearhead and amplify the groundbreaking work with regional colleges and universities by better partnering with IAEM Universities and College Consortium and the local federal executive board in collaborative planning and sponsoring the nation's first-ever Senior Executives Seminar for Presidents and Chancellors as part of our third annual HiEd conference in the Fall.

Thanks for all your hard work.

Russ Webster
Federal Preparedness Coordinator
FEMA, Region I

FEMA Observes Seabrook Nuclear Power Station Combined Functional Drill

On February 10, 2010, Seabrook Nuclear Power Station, in coordination with federal, state, and local partners, participated in a combined functional drill, which was held in preparation for the graded biennial exercise.

FEMA staffed observers at all participating locations throughout Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Observers provided feedback to FEMA Region I of demonstrated strengths, as well as areas for improvement, all of which were compiled into a report, and released to the states and utility. In addition, FEMA also closed several of the Areas Requiring Corrective Action that had remained open from the graded exercise in 2008.

Federal, state, and local officials across New England worked closely together and put forth tremendous effort leading up to the drill; ensuring that officials involved with off-site response to a radiological emergency were trained, knowledgeable, and capable of implementing their plans and procedures.

The second combined functional drill will be held March 24, 2010, followed by the graded exercise May 5, 2010.

REP Visits Department of Energy Nevada Facilities

Representatives from the Radiological Emergency Preparedness Branch traveled to Las Vegas, Nevada in early February to visit Department of Energy (DOE)/National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) facilities. They met with a wide range of personnel, including representatives from DOE/NNSA's Federal Radiological Monitoring and Assessment Center (FRMAC) program.

The purpose of the visit was to educate FEMA's staff on DOE/NNSA resources available in the event of a radiological incident and to learn more about FRMAC. The role of FRMAC is to coordinate radiological monitoring and assessment activities for the emergency and intermediate phases of a major nuclear/radiological incident.

The group also visited the Nevada Test Site (NTS), where nuclear testing occurred from 1951-1992. A number of programs now take place at the NTS in the absence of nuclear testing, including hazardous chemical spill testing, emergency response training, conventional weapons testing, and environmental technology studies.



Radiological Preparedness Staff at Seabrook Pictured from left to right: Robert Schwartz, Mellissa Savilonis, Pat Foster, Steve Coleman and Ingrid Bruns

Region I Welcomes Summer Interns

The National Preparedness Division is hosting three university interns over the summer. The following individuals are supporting a wide range of Regional preparedness actions: Sean Spain, University of New Haven; Brian Petralia, Roger Williams University; Deirde Iadarola, Boston University.

Their support is very welcome and their diligent work in support of regional preparedness efforts has already paid dividends; all three interns are currently assisting our Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG) program analysts as they man a FEMA program informational booth at the New England Fire EXPO in West Springfield 25-27 June, working with R&R, Mitigation and NP staff in the further development of a regional all-

hazards Hazard Identification Risk Assessment (HIRA), as well as working with regional training and exercise staff in conducting internal after action and improvement planning following the April Flooding Disasters.



Interns Tour FRC and MERS

Maine CERT Rehabs Donated Mobile Field Kitchens

The Caribou CERT fed 40 people on Saturday, May 22 2010, thanks to 3 mobile kitchens donated to the CERT by the National Guard. The kitchens were in need of refurbishing in which the team offered to



break down and rebuild. The team tore apart the 3 kitchens to make 2 complete mobile kitchens. The exercise on Saturday proved to be a success.

The mobile kitchens and team will be deployed in the event of any disaster. It can feed approximately 150 people per hour.

A National Guard truck that was due to retire was turned converted into a mobile kitchen. With the help of the City of Caribou Public Works Department, Caribou CERT was able to re-wire, paint, and fix up the 1987 Chevrolet pick-up truck that will be used to move the feeding trailers as needed. The truck also has compartments to store supplies that will be needed to operate the feeding unit.

Over the past few years, Citizen Corps funds given to the CERT by MEMA and Aroostook County EMA has helped Caribou EMA purchase response supplies. The Caribou CERT is led by Caribou Fire/Ambulance Chief and City EMA Director Roy E. Woods. Contact your County Emergency Management to volunteer your time with a CERT program!

FEMA Bids Farewell to Chief Bob Waters



Bob Waters, Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG) Program Analyst has decided to retire following thirteen years of federal service. Prior to joining FEMA Bob served twenty-eight years with the Providence Rhode Island Fire Service and three years as the Chief of the Wellesley Massachusetts Fire Department. Bob joined FEMA in 1999 as a hazardous material specialist who was detailed to assist the United States Fire Academy with the implementation and oversight of the AFG program in 2001.

Bob's professionalism, dedication and hard work in supporting the regional AFG program and his positive and supportive interaction with the fire service agencies of New England have

added to our regions capability to prevent and respond to fires, hazardous materials spills, and disasters through-out our region.

We all wish him continued success and good health as he and his family embarks upon a new and exciting chapter of his life. We know he will look back with fondness and tremendous pride at his contributions and accomplishments to the preparedness of the Region.

Firefighters Assistance Grants Success Stories

Fire Fighter health and safety is a constant concern for members of any department. High levels of stress, obvious job hazards, and intense physical labor are all parts of the daily struggle the fire fighters face when performing their job of keeping us safe – all of which are things that can bring fire fighters to an untimely fate. With full knowledge of the hazards that they face daily, the Colchester Center Volunteer Fire Department took action to gather the resources they needed to ensure that they can go home to their families every night.

With the help of the Fire Fighters Assistance Grant, the Colchester Center Volunteer Fire Department was able to renovate the basement of their fire house into



a recreational gym, with the goals of developing a physical fitness plan that will improve the overall quality of their fire fighters from their physical fitness to job performance. So far, the gym has been used

frequently, with users tracked by sign in sheets. People who have never even used a gym before are starting to take serious interest in their health, simply because the facility and equipment was made available by the AFG.

Not everything that this small department requested was such a large project though. Because of the generosity that the AFG bestowed upon the Colchester Department, they were able to purchase three pulse oximetry monitors that would measure the carbon monoxide content present in a fire fighters blood. A wise decision, when one of the pump operators for the department was measured to have CO levels that were dangerously high during a call. Thanks to the pulse oximeters, everyone got to go home to their families that day. Through the Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant, we will hopefully hear many more stories like this in the near future.

Regional Catastrophic Planning Grant (RCPG)

The RCPG is making progress in developing a Regional Catastrophic Coordination Plan (RCCP) and two scenario based annexes; Improvised Explosive Device (IED) and Cyber Disruption. The RCPG has coordinated assessment and planning efforts within its combined statistical area that includes three states (Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island) two UASIs (Boston and Providence) and multiple local jurisdictions. This effort is not without its challenges but with positive direction and guidance from the Executive Committee that includes the Assistant Secretary for Homeland Security from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the State Emergency Management Directors from New Hampshire and Rhode Island, and the Emergency Management Directors from Boston and Providence positive progress is being made. At a recent RCPG meeting the federal catastrophic planning partners consisting of FEMA R&R and NP and DHHS were briefed as to the progress of the program.

We are assisting the Regional Catastrophic Planning Team (RCPT) and the federal team in coordinating their planning efforts to provide for a prepared and responsive New England.

Emergency Management Students Conduct Site Visit at JFO



Federal Coordinating Officer James N. (Nick) Russo hosted local university students for training and a site visit to the Joint Field Office in Andover, MA. This provided an ideal venue to show students how emergency management works.

For future opportunities, contact Rob Pesapane at robert.pesapane@dhs.gov.

Vermont State Program Achieves National Emergency Management Accreditation

The emergency management program of the State of Vermont was granted full accreditation today by the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP).

The state of Vermont achieved the milestone of having a fully accredited emergency management programs, joining twenty-one other states and four jurisdictions with accredited programs. Emergency management accreditation represents a significant achievement. The state program

documented how they met national standards for their disaster preparedness and response systems.

To achieve accreditation, the state demonstrated compliance with a set of standards used in the accreditation process and underwent a peer-review assessment by EMAP trained assessors.

“With the approval of the Commission, the state has completed the final step for accreditation,” said Andrew Velasquez III, Vice-Chair of the EMAP Commission and director of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency. “Programs that take the extra step to work toward achieving compliance with these standards are at the forefront of ensuring their citizens are served well by a comprehensive system to confront disasters.”

Accreditation is a means of demonstrating, through assessment, documentation and on-site review by an independent team, that a program meets national standards. Accreditation is valid for five years from the date the EMAP Commission grants accreditation. Accredited programs must maintain compliance with EMAP standards and be reassessed in five years to maintain accredited status. EMAP is voluntary accreditation process for state, territorial and local government programs that coordinate preparedness and response activities for disasters, from tornadoes to acts of terrorism.

It recognizes the ability of a state or local government to bring together personnel, resources, and communications from a variety of agencies and organizations in preparation for and in response to an emergency. This forms the foundation of the nation’s emergency response system. EMAP is the only accreditation process for state and local emergency management preparedness.

“Many states and localities have quality emergency management programs. EMAP looks for documentation and procedures to ensure consistency and continuity in the jurisdiction’s capability to prepare and respond,” Velasquez noted.

Working collaboratively since 1997, state, local and federal emergency managers developed EMAP to provide quality standards and a process for determining compliance. The *Emergency Management Standard by EMAP* creates a structure for strategic planning for improvement coupled with methodical, verified assessment by experienced peers from other jurisdictions, which results in stronger capabilities and accountability. The EMAP process evaluates emergency management programs on compliance with requirements in 16 areas, including: planning; resource management; training; exercises, evaluations, and corrective actions; and communications and warning.

Preparedness Initiatives and Regional Happenings

New to the NPD Team

Regional programmatic grant analysts have joined the National Preparedness Division Team. Mrs. Sandra Spinks (EMPG, HSGP), Mrs. Betsy Snell (RCPG, EOC, DLSPG), Chief. Bob Waters and Chief Dave Parr (AFG) have been reassigned to the National Preparedness Division under the Preparedness Program Assessment Branch in order to better synchronize and coordinate grant support with regional preparedness activities. The grants analysts will continue to work closely with their financial management counterparts from Grants Support Branch, Mission Support Division and FEMA Headquarters to ensure the best support to our regional partners.

State Preparedness Reports

All six New England States completed their State Preparedness Reports and the information is now being assessed and reviewed by the National Preparedness Assessment Division of the Protection and

National Preparedness Directorate for further development into the annual FEMA National Preparedness Report to Congress. The NPR is further utilized by other FEMA staff, both regionally and nationally, as a single point document identifying state capabilities to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters. We fully appreciate the time and effort that the states provided in meeting this reporting requirement and I'd like to thank Dr. Watman's staff at headquarters, specifically Mike Brody, and at the region the Preparedness Analyst Plans Specialist, Rick Quinlan. Both were instrumental in providing accurate and timely support to the states.

National Plan Review

The National Plan Review (NPR) which consisted of a three tier review of all of the six New England states and two Urban Area Security Initiative (USAI) (New Haven & Boston) was completed and forwarded to the White House for final review.

Once the NPR is provided to the U.S. Congress FEMA will release copies to the states for their review. The regional review complimented the state and UASI self assessments and then were further reviewed by FEMA headquarters. Initial findings reflect a vast improvement in planning for all-hazards as well as scenario based catastrophic planning from the initial review of 2006. All of the New England participants identified challenges and success in planning efforts and the review has allowed the regional staff to identify areas where technical assistance may further assist the state or UASI in their planning efforts.

Following release of the report to Congress each state and UASI may request through regional NPD a further analysis of their efforts from FEMA headquarters staff since the NPR is an aggregate of the participants submissions with no state or UASI highlighted by name or geographic location.

Task Force Emergency Readiness (TFER)

The TFER pilot grant to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is coming to an end effective the end of this fiscal year (September 2010). The joint Department of Defense (DoD) DHS/FEMA pilot was designed to provide qualified planners to conduct state emergency management planning for the state's emergency management agency and to cross-walk the state's operational response plans throughout state agencies and with the federal response plans. The pilot leverage DoD trained applicants from the Massachusetts National Guard to coordinate and conduct the required planning. The TFER program will undergo an evaluation by FEMA headquarters, GSA IG, and the DoD in the June timeframe. Currently the TFER program has not been funded by DHS/FEMA for FY 2011 or beyond.

Deputy Administrator Serino Observes Success of STEP



FEMA Deputy Administrator Richard Serino visited 2 schools participating in the Student Tools for Emergency Planning (STEP) program. Marienville Elementary in North Providence, Rhode Island and Ludwig V. Beethoven Elementary School featured their 4th grade students' expertise in emergency preparedness. Students explained

what items everyone should consider gathering for their emergency kits and why those supplies would be essential in different emergencies. They were able to communicate the details of their family communication plans given various scenarios and they explained the appropriate behaviors for different emergencies most common to New England. Mr. Serino communicated how impressed he was not only by their knowledge, but by the excitement they had for preparing for all kinds of emergencies. FEMA Region I's STEP Program is being expanded outside of New England to FEMA Regions II and V and Mr. Serino and other FEMA leaders are currently discussing plans for supporting the nationalization of the program. STEP was implemented for over 20,000 students in New England this past year.

Fusion Center Workshop

Following on the success of the April 2010 Fusion Center Workshop held in Devens, Massachusetts we are working with DHS Intelligence & Analysis (DHS I&A), FEMA regional and headquarters staff to develop and coordinate a second workshop in the November 2010 timeframe.

We will be coordinating directly with state homeland security advisors, emergency management directors, and fusion centers directors as well as our federal partners to identify regional topics and issues that we may further highlight and assist with. We are currently compiling training and educational opportunities for program analysts to further the states and regional staff capabilities. Any issue or concern that you may have that you wish to have incorporated please contact our office; the project office is Rick Nicklas at richard.nicklas@dhs.gov.

National Urban Area Security Initiative (USAI) Conference

Region 1 National Preparedness Division will be participating in the annual USAI conference scheduled for 14-18 June in New Orleans,

Louisiana. The UASI conference is a gathering of federal, state, and large metropolitan areas designated as UASIs in order to discuss challenges and solutions regarding prevention, protection and preparedness of our nation's cities against natural and man-made threats. We look forward at further assisting the four UASIs with Region-1 (Boston, MA; Providence, RI; Hartford & Bridgeport, CT) The POC for UASI preparedness support is Rick Quinlan at richard.quinlan1@dhs.gov.

Recent Highlights from NP Staff in Region 1

Richard Quinlan, Michelle Collins, Pat Foster and Michele Johnson were finalists for the Greater Boston Federal Executive Board Awards. Michelle Collins won the Professional Employee of the Year Award for the Emergency Management and Public Safety category.



Michelle and Rich are pictured with their Branch Directors, Bob Grimley and Rick Nicklas respectively.

Also, Chris Lynch recently received his M.S. in Emergency Management from MMA. Congratulations everyone!

MMA EM Academic Program

Massachusetts Maritime Academy's Bachelor of Science in Emergency Management program's educational coursework has been developed for each of three key concepts: hazard, risk, and disaster. The program's depth and range of practical

coursework and experience, provides an EM graduate, the skills for a smooth transition from college to a profession in the emergency management field.

The Master of Science in Emergency Management program provides graduates with the knowledge and tools to be successful emergency managers in both the public and private sectors of industry. The program provides a multi-disciplinary approach requiring a core set of courses needed to address issues common to virtually all hazards, plus courses addressing special topics including public health and transportation security. The degree is offered in an 18 month executive format.

More information can be found at www.maritime.edu.

Preparedness Calendar

- July 12-15: Rebuilding Sustainable Communities with Elderly & Disabled People after Disasters, UMASS-Boston
- September: National Preparedness Month
- September 15-16: FEMA National Youth Summit, Washington, DC
- September 16: RISC Meeting
- September 28 or 29: R1 Community Preparedness Conference, Boston, MA (Tentative)
- September: TBD Anthrax TTX Location: TBD
- September 28: State Citizen Corps Manager's Roundtable, Boston, MA
- FALL: 3rd Annual HiEd Conference, Date and Location TBD